NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
September 25, 1998

In the Tsunami's Wake:
Field Museum anthropologists visit Papua New Guinea

I have just returned from a two-week reconnaissance tour of the north coast of Papua New Guinea with Robert Welsch, adjunct curator of anthropology, and I want to tell Field Museum staff and volunteers what we did and saw.

The areas around Sissano and Malol lagoons were devastated by a tsunami, or tidal wave, on the evening of July 17. The enormous wave obliterated two communities (Arop and Warapu) and severely damaged two others (Malol and Sissano). The number of deaths—between 2,200 and 3,000—is still uncertain. Almost half the populations of Arop and Warapu were killed by the tidal wave.

We visited people in the affected villages and made preliminary arrangements for an in-depth follow-up study of the impact of the tidal wave, which Rob and John Terrell, curator of Oceanic archaeology and ethnology, will begin early next year.

Because of the experience and expertise of the Field Museum staff in this area, PNG's National Research Institute requested this study only a few days after the disaster. The Field Museum has had a presence in this part of PNG since George Dorsey's visit in 1908 and A. B. Lewis' 1909-1913 tour of Melanesia during which he collected 14,385 objects and added 1,900 photos to the Field Museum's collection. Rob and John have been there frequently during the last decade.

We went on this reconnaissance to reinforce The Field Museum's presence in the area, to hear from the people about their experiences during and after the disaster, and to evaluate what permanent projects could be financed by the Museum's disaster relief fund.

In the Aitape area we saw village sites which had been completely scoured, nothing left but a few palm trees. At other sites all that remained were the posts that had supported the houses—now canted 30 degrees from the horizontal by the force of the wave. However, it was most encouraging to see the new village of Warapu actually under construction by the residents in a new location and to be aware of their energy as they created that village.

The people related their appalling experiences to us. The wave struck at sunset on a Friday. It was a festive time at the beginning of a four-day weekend. Because many visitors were in one of the villages the effect there was even more harmful. Darkness fell and those still living tried to survive in complete darkness until Saturday morning. When helpers arrived they must have been in shock to see the dead and injured scattered all over Sissano lagoon.

Although the only nearby hospital had been shut down on Friday for budgetary reasons, it was immediately re-staffed. One of the mining companies offered the use of a helicopter, and it was stuffed with many more than its normal four-passenger capacity during repeated trips to the hospital. Hundreds of the injured were evacuated to the hospitals during the three days after the wave struck.

(please turn to the back page)

FIELD NOTES
Week of September 28

Public Events/Special Events

Latin American Studies Association
• Monday and Tuesday

Yom Kippur
• Wednesday

Teacher Program:
"The Happiness Club"
• Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.

Chicago Herpetological Association
• Wednesday, 6 p.m. in LH1

Columbia College Teacher Workshop
• Thursday, 4:30 p.m. in Clrm C

Members' Lecture: Ronald Takaki
• Thursday, 7 p.m.

Field Associates Event
• Thursday, 6 p.m.

Staff/Volunteer Events

Aerobics Class
Outside Philippines exhibit
• Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m.

Volunteer Training Session
• Wednesday, 9 a.m. in LH2

ATTENTION ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

The reception honoring **Peter Crane** for his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society, originally planned for Wednesday, September 30, has been postponed by three weeks. The rescheduled event will occur on **Wednesday, October 21**. Please mark your calendars and thank you for your interest in this event.

The Great Wall of Pumpkins returns to the Harvest Festival

Museum staff are invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Harvest Festival by contributing a jack-o-lantern to The Great Wall of Pumpkins, an exhibit of jack-o-lanterns and other autumnal works of art designed by local artists.

Your work can be carved, etched or painted, traditional or innovative. It can be large or small, made from a pumpkin, gourd or squash, or not even from a vegetable at all. The idea is to have fun and to convey the idea of the harvest season. You may even choose to find inspiration for your motif among the exhibits at the Museum!

The Great Wall of Pumpkins will be on display in the Botany Hall during the 2nd Annual Harvest Festival, Saturday, October 31, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. If you are interested, or have any questions, please call event coordinator Louise Frank at (773)549-4511, or **Sue Stott** at the Museum at ext. 662. Participants are asked to sign-up before October 15. Your "jack-o-lant-art" must be delivered to the Education Department no later than Friday, October 30.

Submitted by **Sue Stott**

Lunchtime seminar series to begin Tuesdays

The Tuesday At Noon seminar series will begin this academic season with Mr. **Randall Borman** speaking about ecology and conservation in the lowland rainforests of eastern Ecuador. Randy Borman will be the recipient of The Field Museum's 1998 Parker/Gentry Award, and has spent many years in the fight to protect a native culture and its environment in Ecuadorian Amazonia. Please join us in the Zoology classroom at 12 noon on Tuesday, September 29.

The Tuesday At Noon series will host both formal and informal talks covering general subjects of interest to the Museum staff, as well as specific research carried out by staff, students, and associates. We hope to maintain an open and flexible schedule and also present talks by visiting scholars. Please call **Bill Burger** at ext. 318 if you can suggest speakers for this series.

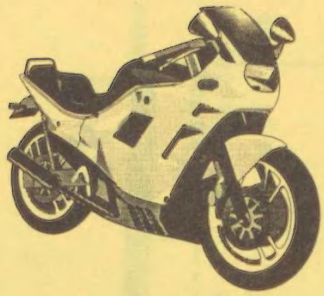
Stressed out?

The kids are back in school, the holidays are quickly approaching, the days are getting shorter and your stress level is on the rise!

On Tuesday, September 29, 1998, Green Spring, our Employee Assistance Program company, will conduct a Brown Bag Lunch seminar addressing Stress Management. This workshop will discuss signals of stress, balancing your life's responsibilities and skills to cope with stress.

Date: September 29, 1998
Time: Noon until 1 p.m.
Place: Dining Room C & D

Submitted by **Carole Kasarda**



VROOM! VROOM! VROOM!

Join the Field Museum Crew For The Opening of *The Art of the Motorcycle* Exhibit

Saturday, November 7th

John McCarter and Other Celebrities
will lead 1,000 Motorcycle Riders
from Montrose Harbor Park to The Museum

Staff help is needed to assist with the event of the Museum season with the opening day crowds, media, bikers, fans and friends!

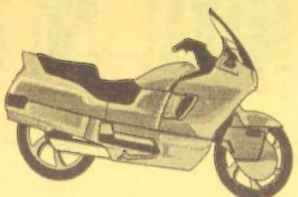
Early bird hosts at The Montrose Harbor Rally will serve coffee and bagels to 1,000 participants (6 to 9 a.m.). **Greeters** at The Museum will give programs, directions and water to riders (8 to Noon).

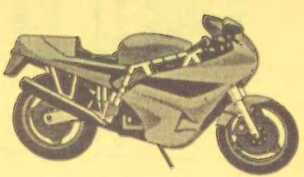
As a host or greeter for this event, you will:

- ❖receive a specially-designed commemorative ride patch
- ❖receive an *Art of the Motorcycle* t-shirt
- ❖be among the first to see the exhibit on opening day

Orientation (with refreshments) by JAM Productions, Wednesday, November 4th at 6 p.m.

Contact Patti Stratton at x 526 to join in this exciting morning for your Museum. Just let her know where you will like to help -- at Montrose Harbor registration/rally or at The Field Museum.





FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
PURCHASE REQUISITION

Purchase Order No.

Date (1) 19

Purchasing Department – Please order the following:

For Department of _____ Requested by (7) Ext. _____

Date material or service required (10) 19 ___ deliver to (4) _____

Purpose of purchase (include project name, budget item or grant no.) _____

_____

_____ Acct. No. (6) _____

PLEASE NOTE: This request will not be processed until either Box A, Box B, or Box C has been checked. (Mark only one.)

Box A. ☐ I understand that, in compliance with Museum policy, all or a portion of this order will be placed with a minority and/or women's business enterprise where appropriate and available by Purchasing Agent.

Box B. ☐ The recommended supplier listed below is a: (check one) (9)

CERTIFIED

___ Minority-owned ___ Women-owned ___ Minority women-owned business enterprise.

NON-CERTIFIED

___ Minority-owned ___ Women-owned ___ Minority women-owned business enterprise.

Box C. ☐ This order can only be satisfied by the recommended non-minority supplier for the following reasons:

_____

Recommended supplier _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PRICING INFORMATION – The prices below are:

☐ From prior requisition or invoice

☐ Estimated ☐ Actual (quoted) prices

☐ From catalog _____ (Name of catalog) _____ (No. or year)

F.O.B.	ROUTING	TERMS

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	EXTENSION
(2)	(3)		
	(5)		
		TOTAL	

AUTHORIZED (8) APPROVED (8)

1998

October

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A & LH 2 Columbia Col Teacher Wkshp - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm C Adult Class - 5pm to 9pm - Clrm B	2 Teacher Prog/Happiness Club - 2pm to 6pm - LH 1 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm -LH 2	3 Adult Class - 8am to 4pm - Clrms A, B, & C Volunteer Training - 9am to 4pm - LH 2 and 4pm to 6pm - LH 1 Teacher Prog - 10am to 12 noon - LH 1
4	5 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A IL Mycological Assoc - 6pm to 10pm - LH 2 Chgo Hang Gliding Org - 7pm to 11pm - LH 1	6 P.Macnamara-9am to 3:30pm - Clrm B Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B, and LH 2	7 Volunteer Training - 9am to 4pm - LH 2 Univ of Chgo Comm - 1pm to 3pm - Clrm C Teacher Prog - Locke School - 3:30pm to 6pm - Clrm C Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B, and LH 2	8 American Assoc of Colleges - 8:30am to 5pm - Clrm A, LH 1, and LH 2 Museo-12:30pm to 4pm -ClrmB Adult Cls-4to 9pm-A, B & LH 2 Columbia Col Teacher Wkshp - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm C Chicago Is - 6pm to 9pm - LH 1	9 American Assoc of Colleges - 8:30am to 5pm - Clrm A & LH2 Conf: "Humankind's Evol. Roots" - 8:30am to 5pm - LH 1 Music Theater Wkshp - 5pm to 9pm - Clrm C Chicago Is - 6pm to 9pm - LH 1	10 Adult Class - 8am to 4pm - Clrms A & B Volunteer Training - 9am to 4pm - LH 1 & 2 Interp Station Vol Training - 9am to 4pm - Clrm C
11 "Dinosaurs and More" - 11am to 3pm - LH 1 & 2, and Clrm A	12 "Dinosaurs and More" - 10am to 1pm - LH 1 & 2, and Clrm A Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A Primitive Art Society - 7:30pm to 10pm - LH 1	13 C.Sulkin-8am to 12n - Clr A P.Mac-9am to 3:30pm-Clr B Museum Affairs Staff Mtg - 2pm to 4pm - LH 1 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B, and LH 2 Chgo Cycl -5 to 10pm - Clrm C Vol Train - 5pm to 10pm - LH 1	14 Volunteer Training- 9am to 4pm - LH 2 and 5pm to 10pm - LH 1 Univ of Chgo Comm - 1pm to 3pm - Clrm C Teacher Prog - 3pm to 7pm - Clrm C Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B, and LH 2	15 American Assoc of Colleges - 8:30am to5pm - Cl A, LH 1 & 2 Museo-12:30pm to 4pm -ClrmB Adult Cl-5to 9pm-A, B & LH 2 Columbia Col Teacher Wkshp - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm C Volunteer Training (SFA) - 5pm to 10pm - LH 1	16 American Assoc of Colleges - 8:30am to 5pm - Clrm A, LH 1, and LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Cl B and 5pm to 9pm - Clr A & LH 1	17 Adult Class - 8am to 9pm - LH 2 and 1pm to 8pm - LH 1 Swedish Folk Art - Opening - 10am to 3pm -Clrms A B, & C **GROUP OVERNIGHT** - 5:45pm to 9am (next morning) - entire Museum
18 Volunteer Mtg - 8am to 4pm - LH 2 Inside Ancient Egypt -Orient. Inst - 9am to 1pm - LH 1	19 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A Chgo Mountaineering Club - 6pm to 10pm - LH 1	20 C.Sulkin-8am to 12n - Clr A Sel Mather Egypt - 9am to 12 noon - LH 1 P.Macnamara-9am to 3:30pm - Clrm B TeachProg - 3pm to 7 - Clrm C Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B, and LH 1 & 2	21 Univ of Chgo Comm - 1pm to 3pm - LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B, and LH 1 & 2	22 Honeytree School - 9am to 12 noon - Clrm A Museology - 12:30pm to 4pm - Clrm B Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm B	23 Music Theater Wkshp - 5pm to 9pm - *The Maori House*	24 Celebracion - 9am to 4pm - Clrm A
25 Celebracion - 9am to 4pm - Clrm A	26 Adult Class - 8am to 4pm -LH1 & 2 and 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A Teacher Prog - 3pm to 7pm - Clrm C	27 C.Sulkin-8am to 12n - Clr A Adult Class - 8am to 9pm-LH 2, 8am to 4pm - LH 1 and 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B P.Macnamara-9am to 3:30pm - Clrm B	28 Univ of Chgo Comm - 1pm to 3pm - LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B, and LH 2 Chgo Herp. Society - 6pm to 10pm - LH 1	29 Museology - 12:30pm to 4pm - Clrm B Teacher Prog - 2pm to 10pm - LH 1 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B, and LH 2 Columbia Col Teacher Wkshp - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm C	30 Teacher Progs - 8:30am to 2pm - LH 1 & 2, and Clrms A, B, & C Adult Class - 2pm to midnight - LH 1 & 2	31 Adult Class - 8am to midnight - Clrm A and LH 2, and 8am to 5pm - Clrms B & C

1998

October

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 SWebb-JST 5:00pm-9:00pm Field Assoc/Candreson-SFH/Rice 6:00pm-10:00pm ***Intl Marine & Sportfishing Expo-McCormick Pl***	2 Abbott Labs-SFH/Rice 5:00pm-11:00pm 400 ***Intl Marine & Sportfishing Expo-McCormick Pl***	3 Hyatt-Regency-SFH 40 LBrown-JST 11:00am 4:00pm ***Intl Marine & Sportfishin Expo-McCormick Pl***
4 Central Assoc. of College & Univ Of Chg — SFH 6:00pm-8:00pm 600 *BEARS-12:00PM* ***Intl Marine & Sportfishing Expo-McCormick Pl***	5 LSanders-Tavern Club-SFH ***Plastics USA-McCormick Pl***	6 SStott-Webber Resource LSanders-Tavern Club-SFH PWrenn-JST 3-8:00pm ***Plastics USA-Prompt 98-McCormick Pl***	7 Argonne Nat. Lab.- SFH/Rice 150 6:30pm-10:00pm ***Plastics USA-Prompt 98-McCormick Pl***	8 Health & Medicine- SFH 5:00pm-8:00pm 100 T-Special Events-Rice/LH 1 ***Plastics USA-Prompt 98-McCormick Pl***	9 EZeiger-AAAS-JST all day N.W. Memorial Hosp-SFH 700 Chicago Is — Rice 5:30pm-10:00pm 100	11 EZeiger- (AAAS) SFH/JS Founder's Room ***Windy City Pet Expo-McCormick***
11 New Exhibit Preview-Swedish Folk Art EZeiger-AAAS-SFH, JST, Founder's Room ***Windy City Pet Expo-McCormick Pl***	12 New Exhibit Preview-Swedish Folk Art ***Motivation Show-McCormick Pl***	13 ***Motivation Show-McCormick Pl***	14 New Exhibit Preview-Swedish Folk Art LDini-PR Media Prview-SFH 10:00am-12:00noon ***Motivation Show-McCormick Pl***	15 New Exhibit Preview-Swedish Folk Art President Banking-SFH/Bal 7:00pm-10:00pm 600 ***Cardinal Bus Media-Motivation Show-NAMA Nat Expo-McCormick Pl***	16 Cbyrne-SF/Exhibit 10:00am-12:00pm Blopez-Rice American Ambassador Cas Co-SFH 6pm-9pm ***Cardinal Bus Media-NAMA Nat Expo-McCormick Pl***	17 KWebber- Overnight MBloom-JST 9:00am-4:00pm JThymes-SFH-10:00am-3:00p ***Cardinal Bus Media-NAMA Nat Expo-Worl Wk-McCormick Pl***
18 Fannie Mae-SFH/Bal 2,300 9:00pm-12:00am *BEARS-3:15PM* ***World Workplace '98-McCormick Pl***	19 Merchandise Mart-SFH/Bal/JST 6:30pm-12:00am ***World Workplace '98-McCormick Pl***	20 PStratton-SFH 5:00pm-8:00pm ***World Workplace '98-McCormick Pl***	21 BCrownover-SFH 6:00pm-8:00pm SBell-JST 5:00pm-9:00pm	22 Allied Van Lines-SFH 6:30pm-9:30pm ***Intl Bus Prod Conv-McCormick Pl***	23 Nat. Assoc. of Home Builder-SFH/Bal 7:00pm-11:00pm 1500 Asian Ceramic Conf-Rice 5:00pm-8:00pm Celebracion-JSt 4-9pm *Intl Bus Prod Conv-Nat Assoc Homebld -McCormick Pl*	24 Midwest Meat —SFH/JST 8 Celebracion-JST 10:00am-4:0 ***Intl Bus Prod Conv-N Assoc Homebld-McCormick Pl***
25 Celebracion- SFH/Rice 10am-4pm Alexian Bros-SFH/Egyptian Exhibit-5pm T-Special Events-JST	26 RPatience- Rice Pres. Dinner 5:30pm-8:30pm Celebracion-SFH 10am-1pm T-Special Events-SFH ***Graph Expo-McCormick Pl***	27 Celebracion-SFH 10am-4pm Nat. Geographic-SFH 5:30pm ***Graph Expo-McCormick Pl***	28 Anti-Defamation League SFH 6:00pm-10:00pm 800 ***Graph Expo-McCormick Pl***	29 Bon Appetit Set-Up	30 Bon Appetit -SFH/Rice 2000	31 Halloween Fest- SFH 11:00am-4:00pm MBloom-JST 9:00am-4:00pm NorthWestern-RCB -SFH

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Field Museum website wins award

The Field Museum's website recently received the Best Nature Sites Award from The Butterfly WebSite at **http://butterflywebsite.com** for its butterfly website. These awards are given to those websites which are well designed, safe for children, and are significant contributors to the appreciation of nature and ecology on the World Wide Web. Congratulations to everyone who helped with the site, especially developers **Allyson Meyer**, **Brad Loetel**, **Lori Breslauer**, and **Margaret Thayer**.

Note: Although the butterflies from *Living Colors* are gone, butterflies live on in our web site. The butterfly site has been reformatted so it now focuses on our butterfly and moth collections, butterfly habitats and butterfly basics.
Check it out at **http://www.fmnh.org/butterfly/default.htm**.

New procedures to be taken for abatement of hazardous materials

Effective August 20, 1998, the following procedures will be taken in the event that hazardous material has been identified in any area of the Museum with respect to construction or remodeling projects:

- As soon as hazardous material is identified and an area is designated for abatement, **John Mazza** of Facility Planning and Operations (ext. 380) should be advised and briefed on the situation.
- The area in question should be closed off and turned over to F. P. & O. for handling.
- F. P. & O. will take the proper steps to render the area safe for work or occupancy. F. P. & O. will hire the appropriate consultants and contractors to execute the abatement work. F. P. & O. will manage the entire operation with their own staff. F. P. & O. will prepare a budget and a schedule of the work and will keep the respective department informed of the abatement progress.
- Upon completion of the work, F. P. & O. will return the area to the appropriate department or project manager.
- Only Museum staff who may have been exposed to any hazardous material should contact Human Resources at ext. 529.

Submitted by **Jim Croft**

Notice to all staff who work with volunteers

Beginning October 1, the Museum is implementing a new policy requiring background checks for all *new* volunteers. Following the same standards for hiring staff, we will ask each prospective volunteer to complete the "Authorization and Consent for Release of Information" form. After a positive background report is received, the volunteer will be accepted and issued an I.D. badge and may begin working in your departments.

Please note that this change will slow down the activation of new volunteers by just a few days. As you may know, The Field Museum is increasing the emphasis on security here. Likewise, other museums, hospitals and institutions serving children are increasing screening procedures. In moving forward with the growth and professionalism of our volunteer program, it is now time to upgrade the reference checking system.

The Field Museum is fortunate that there have been no serious incidents with our collections or visiting public. As we strive to improve the functioning and stature of our Museum, we need both high quality staff and volunteers. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions please call **Patti Stratton**, Manager of Volunteer Services, at ext. 526.

Tsunami (continued from page 1)

There were many stories of tragedy. A mother carrying infant twins was swept off her feet and the babies were lost. A man with several children was identified to me as a schoolteacher who had lost his wife. The stories went on and on.

We saw the miles of affected area from the water, from the ground, and from the air. The latter was particularly revealing because it showed how some villages had been completely scoured. No semblance of any man-made structure remained. Palm trees were bent, and undergrowth had been swept away.

We spent two nights in a congested care center (euphemism for a refugee camp) with Ferdinand Wakenu and his family, and we were treated as honored guests. The living spaces, each occupied by several families, were covered with bright blue tarpaulins and a cooking fire was in each corner. The people are quiet, gentle, and generous. The children are very well behaved and were perceptive enough to see to our needs. Our second night's stay at the center became necessary when high water in the river prevented crossing via the ford.

We became aware of one of the legacies of the tidal wave when visiting the hospital's many wards and seeing the people of all ages still there two months later.

After talking with a variety of people (villagers, doctors, and missionaries) we can now suggest several concrete ways for The Field Museum to use the funds raised for disaster relief. Among them are a solar-powered refrigerator for vaccine storage, a library building, a classroom building, and a health-center building. These will also have a permanent impact in the area. Some additional funds may be needed to help realize the urgent needs of the area and The Field Museum can be the vehicle.

Submitted by **Jack McDonald** (Anthropology volunteer)

If you would like to contribute to the relief fund and to The Field Museum's permanent contribution there, please make checks payable to "The Field Museum/PNG Relief Fund" and submit to ***Stephanie Powell*** *in the President's Office, ext. 846.*

Is your wardrobe ready for a change of season?

Eddie Bauer is extending a 20% discount to Field Museum staff and volunteers on all full-priced merchandise. This discount is available Thursday through Sunday, September 24-27, 1998. You will need to show your ID badge in order to receive the discount. For more details, stop by Human Resources to pick up a flyer or call **Carole Kasarda** at ext. 529.

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!